

## Farm Service Agency, USDA

## § 723.416

marketing year basis and shall be retained for 3 years after the end of the marketing year. Records shall be kept for such longer period of time as may be requested in writing by the State FSA executive director, or the Director.

### **§ 723.414 Failure to keep records and make reports or making false report or record.**

(a)(1) *Failure to keep records and make reports.* Under the provisions of section 373(a) of the Act, any warehouse operator, processor, buyer, dealer, trucker, or person engaged in the business of sorting, redrying, stemming, packing, or otherwise processing tobacco who fails to make any report or keep any record as required, or who makes any false report or record, is guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$500 for each offense. In addition, any tobacco warehouse operator, dealer, or buyer who fails, upon being requested to do so, to remedy a violation by submitting complete reports and keeping accurate records shall be subject to an additional fine, not to exceed \$5,000.

(2) *Failure to obtain producer marketing card or sale memo.* The failure of any dealer or warehouse operator to obtain a:

(i) Producer's marketing card, MQ-76 and MQ-77, to identify a sale of producer tobacco, or

(ii) Dealer identification card, MQ-79-2, to cover a resale of tobacco, shall constitute a failure to make a report.

(b) *False representation—warehouse operators, dealers, and processors.* The monetary penalties described in this part are in addition to penalties prescribed by other criminal statutes including 18 U.S.C. 231 which provides for a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both, for a person convicted of knowingly and willingly committing such acts as making a false acreage report, altering a marketing card, falsely identifying tobacco or buying and selling unused "103 percent of quota poundage" on marketing cards.

(c) *Misrepresentation and scheme or device.* A warehouse operator or dealer

who is determined by FSA to have knowingly:

(1) Adopted any scheme or device which tends to defeat the purpose of the tobacco program.

(2) Made any fraudulent representation,

(3) Misused a MQ-76 or MQ-79-2, or

(4) Sold excess tobacco, shall pay a marketing quota penalty as prescribed in this part.

[55 FR 39914, Oct. 1, 1990, as amended at 56 FR 21444, May 9, 1991]

### **§ 723.415 Examination of records and reports.**

For the purpose of ascertaining the correctness of any report made or record kept, or of obtaining the information required to be furnished, in any report, but not so furnished, any warehouse operator, processor, dealer, buyer, trucker, or person engaged in the business of sorting, redrying, stemming, picking, or otherwise processing tobacco for producers, shall make available at one place for examination by representatives of the State FSA executive director and by employees of the Office of Investigation and Office of Audit, and of the Tobacco and Peanuts Division of the Farm Service Agency, U.S. Department of Agriculture upon written request by the State FSA executive director, all such books, papers, records, lot tickets, tobacco sale bills, buyer adjustment invoices, accounts, canceled checks, check register, check stubs, correspondence, contracts, documents, warehouse bill-out invoices or daily summary journal sheet, the tissue copy of Form MQ-72-1, Report of Tobacco Auction Sale, journal of producer marketing cards retained at warehouse and memoranda as the State FSA executive director has reason to believe are relevant and are within the control of such person.

### **§ 723.416 Information confidential.**

All data reported to or acquired by the Secretary pursuant to the provisions of this subpart shall be kept confidential by all officers and community committees, and all county FSA office employees. Only such data so reported or acquired as the Deputy Administrator deems relevant shall be disclosed by them, and then only in a suit